

# PESTS & DISEASE

## TROUBLE SHOOTING GUIDE FOR ORCHIDS

PEST	IDENTIFY	TREAT	PHOTO
Scale	Hard light, brown bumps that you cannot scrape away indicate Boisduval scale.	With an old toothbrush and 70% rubbing alcohol, and a pair of surgical gloves scrub every nook and cranny of your orchid.	
Mealybugs	Cottony, web-like substance around the base of the plant on pseudobulbs, rhizomes, are on the underside of leaves.	Isolate infected orchids. Spray the plant with horticulture oil. This is most effective when bugs are in the nymph phase.	
Spider Mites	Not all spider mites spin webs. Because the mites are so tiny, the best indicator of spider mites are tiny indentations on the leaves.	Isolate infected orchids. Spray the plant with horticulture oil. This is most effective when bugs are in the nymph phase.	
Aphids	Look for aphids on the most tender parts of your orchid. Look for soft-bodied green, yellow or black soft-bodied insects.	Take your orchid outside and spray off the aphids. Watch closely. It only takes one aphid to reproduce and start a colony.	
Ants	Ants love honeydew which is secreted by healthy orchids. Honeydew is also excreted by aphids and mealybugs.	When you see ants, look for other pests. Otherwise, a damp cloth will clean up the honeydew and the ants will go away.	
Snails & Slugs	Look at night when they come out to eat new growth - including buds and flowers. Watch for the slime trail.	Use a product called Sluggo. Sprinkle it around your orchids. The snails and slugs will feed on the Sluggo and die.	
Prevention	Sterilize tools with a flame or rubbing alcohol.	Make it a habit to check for pests when you:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Water</li> <li>- Re-pot</li> <li>- Buy</li> </ul>

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Fungal	Root, rhizome, pseudobulb rot and leaf spots can all indicate fungus.	To treat fungal and bacterial infections, use sterilized pruning shears to cut away affected area. Apply cinnamon paste to lesion. For fungal infections, apply beneficial fungi or, a copper-based insecticidal soap.	
Bacterial	Bacterial spotting is very common especially on thin-leaf orchids such as oncidiums. Look for round/oval spots that are brown or black.	For bacterial infections, apply beneficial bacteria, or refined horticultural oil or insecticidal soap.	
Prevention	To prevent fungal and bacterial infections, remember three things:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Use a fan.</li> <li>2. Always sterilize tools.</li> <li>3. Try not to overwater.</li> </ol> Overwatering leads to rot. Rot leads to infection.	
Viruses	Viruses are difficult to diagnose. Still, viruses can be identified by a color break in blooms. A viruses tend to be in not on plant tissue.	To accurately identify a virus you must take a sample and send it to a commercial lab such as agdia.	
Prevention	Here's how viruses are spread: the sap from an infected orchid comes in contact with a healthy orchid.	To prevent tool transmission make sanitation a top priority. To prevent insect transmission, keep insects under control.	
Sunburn	Identify sunburn by leaf collapse. As time goes on the leaf will continue to deteriorate. A sunburned leaf will feel squishy.	Remove the burned leaf. Apply a cinnamon paste to the orchid where the leaf was removed.	
Prevention	Keep the orchid away from direct sunlight and do not leave an orchid in your car.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Water</li> <li>- Re-pot</li> <li>-Buy</li> <li>- Sterilize tools with a flame or rubbing alcohol</li> </ul>	